

The Semaphore

Issue 141

Fall 1997



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The

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Filbert

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Street

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Steps

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INSIDE:

Clip and Save Summaries of Public Interest Legislation.

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The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily

reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without written permission.

EDITOR'S DESK

Politicians and constituents who created public interest legislation were, and are, prescient local heroes who have given San Franciscans significant protection against negative development. Summaries of the following legislation are in this issue for clip-and-save reference: Open Meeting Laws and Ordinances. Proposition M. North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District. CEQA. Telegraph Hill Historic District. Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

It may be coincidence that the Mayor removed two preservation experts from the Landmarks Board at precisely the time the board is evaluating important proposed developments that will affect the Telegraph Hill Historic District. The Landmarks Board was created over forty years ago to look after City history and (what was left of) its unique neighborhoods following the indiscriminate destruction of thousands of San Francisco

buildings in the 60s. Having saved many San Francisco landmarks from destruction, the board faces its first crisis as the respectable gatekeeper between sensible growth and inappropriate development.

If City agencies become disabled or surrender their rights to objectively represent public interests, residents must insist on being governed by prevailing law and ordinances that, for example, prevent degrading the Grace Marchant Garden, and also protect historic buildings from unnecessary demolition--it's one thing to lose them to time, quite another to deliberately destroy them.

Worldwide, major cities are investing in plans to protect the character of popular neighborhoods and also release them from the grip of automobiles. In San Francisco, though, people have to fight like tigers to convince officials of obvious priorities. Why?



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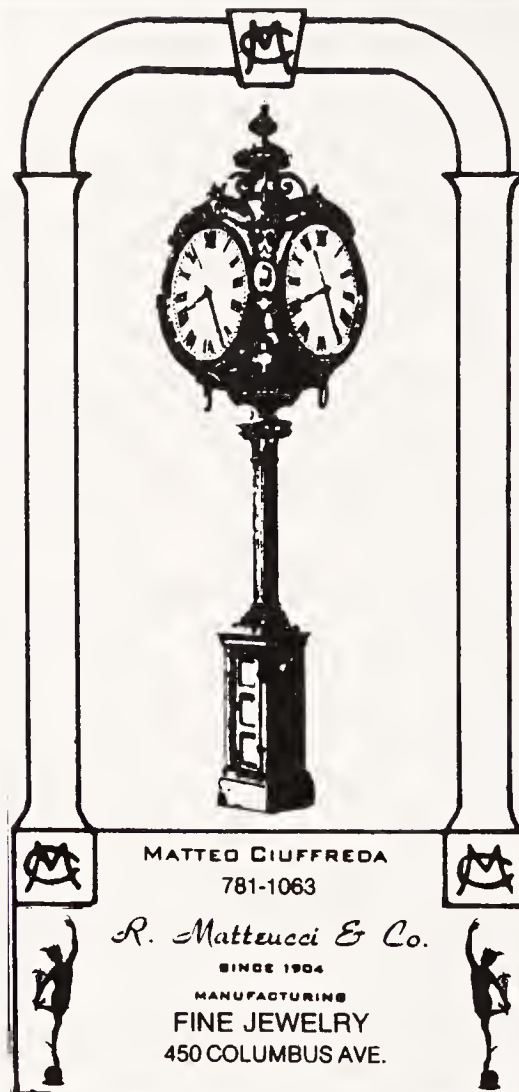
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Jump-started by a Parking and Traffic Commission hearing at SS Peter & Paul Parish Center on May 28, 19 Dwellers, speaking in opposition to the proposed North Beach Garage project, set the climate for a summer of activism. Sheila Black, our Parking and Traffic chair, spoke at two other commission hearings on the subject of consolidated white zones in North Beach.

More than thirty members volunteered to staff our booth at the North Beach Fair June 14-15. As a result of their efforts to recruit new members applications continue to be received.

Telegraph Hill Dwellers devoted considerable energy to opposing 3 proposed projects within the Telegraph Hill Historic District which are not in compliance with provisions of the Ordinance. Discussions with developers, owners, architects, geotechnical engineers, the Landmarks Board and the Planning Department were extensive as we continue the preservation of our neighborhood's character. The properties are located at 290 Union Street, 1304 Montgomery Street and 22-30 Alta Street.

Committee members of the Pioneer Park at Coit Tower Project met often this summer to plan the August 18 fundraiser which kicked off the Step Into History campaign. For \$500 one may purchase a tile, engraved with a name, to be placed on the vertical face of a riser on new steps leading to Coit Tower. First reports indicate an overwhelming response.

The officers, directors and committee chairs of THD hosted a neighborhood exchange gathering at Nancy Lenvin's home in July. We exchanged information and discussed common issues with our counterparts from North Beach Neighbors and the Russian Hill Neighborhood Association. Enthusiasm reigned and seems to continue.

A special thank you to Billie Atlas and Terry Bertrand for arranging our successful August dinner meeting at the San Remo Hotel, a sentimental favorite and a longtime *Semaphore* advertiser. Mark Bittner's fascinating program on the Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill charmed us all and he fielded more questions from Dwellers than Mayor Brown did at our June meeting.



Presidents of our three local neighborhood associations got together in July. L/R: **Norwood Pratt**, North Beach Neighbors. **Gerry Crowley**, Telegraph Hill Dwellers. **Tim Covington**, Russian Hill Neighborhood Association.

Many new members attended the sold-out event and although I met some of you, there were others I missed. Please seek me out at our next gathering. I and our Social Committee co-chairs welcome suggestions for future programs.

Somewhere in our membership there is an individual with a PC who could devote an hour a month designing THD invitations on Power Point. Please identify yourself to me, or to one of our Social co-chairs.

A fond farewell to Clyde Steiner who has served Telegraph Hill Dwellers for many years as both a director and *Semaphore* editor. Clyde and Shari are moving to their building on Liberty Hill because they've outgrown their digs on our Hill. Personally, I shall miss Clyde's wisdom, his humor and his dedication.

THD BOARD RESOLUTIONS

May 13, 1997

The Board discussed and approved motions to:

Send letters to the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and HUD regarding replacement of the Columbo Building on the I-Hotel site. Letters will ask that HUD comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to ensure that the project and design of future structures on the site will be compatible with the historic fabric, character and scale of our neighborhood.

Support a Conditional Use Permit for expanding the size and services of "Mr. Pizza Man" to a full-service restaurant at 757-59 Columbus Avenue only if all operations cease at midnight, 7 days a week, and that the City's approval include an enforceable provision requiring off-street parking of delivery vehicles.

June 10, 1997

The Board discussed and approved the following motion:

After reviewing plans dated May 28 for a proposed 3-unit condominium project at 22-30 Alta Street, the Board determined that it does not meet the requirements of San Francisco's Planning Code and, in particular, provisions of the Telegraph Hill Historic District Ordinance (Article 10). The Board's primary concerns are that the mass and scale of the proposed structure are incompatible with adjacent and nearby contributory buildings within the historic district and that this structure would significantly impact the Grace Marchant Garden by shading its plants and impairing public views.

July—Board meetings are not held in July.

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SOCIAL NEWS

By Billie Atlas and Terry Bertrand

Mark Bittner's popular program about his feisty feathered friends, the Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill, was enthusiastically received at the August General Membership meeting at the San Remo Hotel. Other presentations were by members of the Pioneer Park Committee and by James Attwood who discussed the proposed 22-30 Alta Street development and distributed petitions opposing the project.

Mark your calendars. You will receive invitations to these events: A cocktail party on September 17. On October 26 a

party will honor local writers at Enrico's--details below. The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for November 17 also at Enrico's. The annual Holiday party will be held December 14 at Julius' Castle. As Gerry Crowley mentioned in her President's Letter, help is desperately needed to typeset invitations. Any volunteers out there?

SPECIAL EVENT

A Party for Local Authors will be held Sunday, October 26 from 2-4 PM at Enrico's on Broadway. This is a free event honoring writers who live and work in our

extended neighborhood. Here's a chance to meet some of the talented and inspired writers whose poetry, fiction and non-fiction have given us many hours of pleasure, and to ask them to sign books.

Invitations have gone out to several dozen local writers including Diane Johnson, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Tricia Brown, Adah Bakalinski, Neeli Cherkovski, David Hunt, Paula Wolfert, Helen von Ammon, Herb Gold and Ruth Heller. Please contact Billie Atlas at 433-1634 with names of local writers you would like to include in this event.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By June Fraps

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to the members who have joined since the publication of the last Semaphore: Jerome Simon and Hilary Bates, Susanne Khalili and Will Borders, Francis Brennan, Mimi Powers and Frank Cialone, Page Murray and Laura Clark, Paul DeMartini, Gigi and Phyllis Fiorucci, Dr. Sandra Foster, Sandra Gaylor, Jean Giffard, Von Helmuth, Robert Hinish, Marion Kadish, Susan Lyon, Leslie Bauer and Bernard Martin, Flicka McGurrin, Laura and Patrick Morgan, Vanessa Murphy, Suzanne Nelson, Shanti Noris-Barrera, Jennifer O'Donnell, Arno and Sherry Penzias, Paulette Schammel, Will Shank, Robert Sheridan, Jordan Shlain, John Tansley, Audrey Tomaselli, Vic Tripathy, Norma Walden, Justen Wattenbarger, Julie Tylman and Glenn Wein, Anne White, and Jill and Richard Ying.

North Beach Fair

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers were well represented at the North Beach Fair, with an eye-catching booth to recruit new members. Howard Wong created a visual "history" of THD that drew lots of attention, and Billie Atlas and Nancy Lenvin orchestrated the volunteer effort.

Many thanks to the volunteers who recruited new members for THD at the Fair: Howard Wong, Julie Christensen, Joe Luttrell, Jane Winslow, Rhoda Robinson, Daranne Schott, Pat Cady, Sarah Gregory, Paul and Gail Switzer, Gerry Crowley, Aaron Peskin, Catz Forsman, Jean Mullis, Carol and Don Zakes, Lori Viti, Andy Katz, Judi Powell, Karen Kevorkian,

Richard Johnson, Peter and Rozell Overmire, Sally Gould, Nancy Thompson, Andy Kerr, Grace Miller, Nancy Lenvin, and Billie Atlas.

Like to Take Pictures?

The San Francisco Historical Society plans to have all of San Francisco photographed by the year 2000, the 150th anniversary of California's statehood. The result of this enormous undertaking will be a massive documentation of the physical appearance of San Francisco. And naturally, they need volunteers for an effort of this magnitude. If you'd like to participate, call the Society at 755-1111.

Do You Have Access to Access?

If you're knowledgeable about Access or other database programs, we could use your help! Call June Fraps, 392-1187

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PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Nancy Shanahan and Aaron Peskin

Updates on major issues.

Telegraph Hill Historic District

22-30 Alta Street / Grace Marchant Garden Development

A color photo and article on the front page of the August 7 Chronicle expanded awareness of growing opposition to the proposed condominium development on this site. THD stated its position against this project to the Planning Department. There are indications that the developer may be required to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before the City can take any action to consider the project. The Alta Filbert Preservation Association made an offer to purchase the site from the developers which, to date, has not been accepted.

290 Union Street

A developer's proposal to alter this pre-1870 building was considered by the architectural review committee of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board at a June meeting where THD presented evidence that it is among the first 25 buildings constructed

on Telegraph Hill. What the developer proposed as "architectural rehabilitation" clearly falls within the code's definition of "demolition", and the Landmarks Board agreed that it is subject to maximum controls under Article 10 which regulates development in the Historic District. The City Zoning Administrator also ruled that the proposed project must be classified as a "demolition" of a historic structure and must, therefore, also be considered by the Planning Department which is determining whether the project is subject to CEQA review. The Department of Public Works, without public notice or public hearing, granted an Encroachment Permit allowing the developer to expand the building onto City-owned land. However, after meeting with THD, DPW suspended the permit and agreed to hold public hearings if the issue is reconsidered.

1304 Montgomery Street

Major exterior alterations proposed for the building do not comply with design/style guidelines specified by the Historic District Ordinance. The committee concluded the

plan should not receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Board. Committee members have met with the project architect and the landowner to discuss concerns and encourage design changes.

Public Information: Ideas for educating the public and the neighborhood about the Telegraph Hill Historic District include a) posting a sign identifying the District at Union and Montgomery, and b) making available copies of the publication, Pocket Guide to the Historic Districts of San Francisco. These suggestions are referred to THD's H.A.L.O Committee.

North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District

A new Planning & Zoning Subcommittee has formed to address the issue of the ever-growing number of conversions from neighborhood-serving businesses to restaurants, citywide specialty shops and other non-neighborhood-serving establishments. They will start by researching changes that have taken place since the Ordinance for the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District was enacted in 1987.

continued on page 29

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

By Sheila Black

There has been record attendance at meetings (3rd Saturdays, 11 AM at Little City Restaurant), and rapt dedication to committee activities. Even the *Chronicle* covered the idea of Consolidated White Zone Valet Parking originally proposed by Paul Switzer, now spearheaded by both THD and the North Beach Chamber of Commerce. Briefly, the plan would consolidate selected North Beach white zones. Visitors would leave their cars for parking by valets (employees of established parking providers) in one zone, and pick them up in the same, or another zone. The parking charge would reflect validation discounts by participating North Beach merchants, whose establishments would be mapped on a Parking Card.

The Parking and Traffic Commission deferred its decision to pilot the plan on a Green Street site that we, and many merchants, felt would doom the

project. At the Commission meeting on August 5 we were successful in nailing down a date for a meeting to include: Department of Parking and Traffic's Executive Director Bill Maher, myself and THD President Gerry Crowley, and Marcia Garland, Secretary of the North Beach Chamber, plus three valet parking services strongly interested in implementing the plan, and North Beach garage owners and managers.

We hope to achieve at least tentative agreement on sites, parking storage, costs, a valet trial system authority, e. g. whom to call with complaints, and perhaps a schedule of revocation of permits for white zones from holders who improperly use them.

Our ultimate goal, of course, is to make North Beach an easier place to park for residents and visitors alike. Merchants and dwellers are all in this together and cooperation could well be key to the project's success.

.....

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

By Richard Johnson

Well hello everyone from the Crime Prevention Committee. With this article please notice the latest crime stats for the neighborhood. While we have not achieved a zero balance on crimes committed, considering that it is summer in San Francisco (millions of visiting tourists) we appear to be doing very well.

By becoming involved with our committee, you can help keep the neighborhood safe. To get involved, call me at 986-6004.

Our next neighborhood meeting will take place on Monday, September 22 at 6:30 PM at Cafe Francisco, located on Francisco and Powell. I hope to have a representative from SFPD and/or Project SAFE at the meeting.

Crime Statistics for Quarter May-July 1997

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Total</u>
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery	4	3	1	8
Assault	9	6	10	25
Burglary	4	5	6	15
Theft	21	23	34	78
Auto	17	12	13	42

N. I. C. E COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dawne Bernhardt

Labors of Love

The best part of the NICE Committee for me is saying thank you and recognizing Hill Dwellers and friends who contribute to NICE—Neighborhood Improvement Conservation and Enhancement. Special thanks this month to some 75 Saturday Work Party volunteers who have cleaned and cleared, pruned and planted. Thanks to their labors of love over the past 18 months, many plants, shrubs and 40 trees have taken root. And the drip irrigation system they installed on the Kearny/Filbert stairs has eliminated the difficult and unwieldy hauling of heavy hoses up those steep hills. Thanks also to contributors to the delicious picnic potlucks which not only reward the morning efforts, but are also a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors and make new friends. New volunteers are enthusiastically welcomed. Call 391-9919. Your name will be added to the volunteer list and you will be called the week before to determine your availability.

Thanks to all who have nominated neighbors for the

Green Thumb Honor Roll, and please keep nominations coming by calling me at 982-3314. The newest awardees will be guests of honor at the October 4 Saturday Work Party and Picnic at Pioneer Park. Special thanks to all of you who have expressed special appreciation for the efforts of Erin Wood, as reported in the Summer *Semaphore*. Thanks, Erin, for your labors of love that have transformed Union Street just above Grant Avenue into a truly blooming sidewalk.

Thanks to NICE member and THD Vice President Howard Wong for creating a fascinating pictorial history of THD for our booth at the North Beach Fair. With Historian Rhoda Robinson's help Howard found in the archives photos from THD's earliest years. Look for the display at future THD functions. Give Howard a call at 982-5055 if you have photos to add. Thanks to NICE members Sara Gregory and Joan Wood who joined me to stuff and stamp 1800 invitations to the Pioneer Park *Step Into History* event, and to past-President Jane Winslow and President Gerry Crowley who addressed over a thousand of them.

A very special thanks to 77-year-old Pok Hau Leung, a longtime Hill resident. His labor of love has led NICE to create a new award, A Very Nice Neighbor, for particularly generous and thoughtful actions to improve our neighborhood. If you walk or drive along Kearny from Union to Vallejo you will see Mr. Leung with broom, dustbin and radio picking up the considerable litter and leaves that collect on this wind tunnel of a street. Or you may have seen him with a handtruck wheeling 20 to 30-pound sacks of litter down Green. Because the City has been unwilling to pick up the sacks, Mr. Leung has arranged to use Fior D'Italia's huge bins. Stop and say hi, or thanks, and you will find Mr. Leung delightfully enthusiastic about his chosen task.

Thanks from THD and
the NICE Committee

Mr. Pok Hau Leung

A very N. I. C. E.
Neighbor!

PIONEER PARK PROJECT REPORT

By Dawne Bernhardt

Step Into History

(While there's still time!)

A festive twilight reception at Coit Tower on August 18 celebrated the progress of the project and launched the *Step Into History* campaign to raise remaining funds needed to complete the restoration of the park.

Special guests John Langley Howard, Coit Tower muralist, Masha Zakheim, author of *Coit Tower* and daughter of muralist Bernard Zakheim, David Myrick author of *Telegraph Hill*, and Chapin Coit joined representatives from San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, Recreation and Parks Department, and Department of Public Works, who have enthusiastically supported the project from the beginning. Party-goers were able to gain a better understanding of the plans for new stairways, a terrace and ramp by studying the splendid scale model prepared by California Model & Design with help from students in the model class of California Academy of Art, and Pioneer Park Project volunteers. They also viewed the pictorial display featuring fascinating aerial photographs, the works of Robert Cameron, author of *Above San Francisco*.

Delightful treats at the reception included docent tours of the rarely seen murals that line the stair walls and second floor of Coit Tower. From the sky bar at the top of the tower, guests enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres from Enrico's and Rose Pistola, strolling musicians, entertainers from Beach Blanket Babylon and all received an engraved souvenir wine glass from the Niebaum-Coppola Winery.

Many volunteers contributed to the success of the evening. The Events Committee included

Chair, Ken Maley, Maud Hallin, Anne Halsted, Gerry Crowley, Julie Christensen, Jane Winslow, Marshall Roath, Rod Freebairn-Smith, Dawne Bernhardt, Joe Butler, Amy Stone and Howard Wong. Special thanks to Maud for coordinating endless details, to Marshall and Julie for invitations and model making, to Rod for art work and the data base to administer the tile program, to Amy for publicity, and to Howard for the display.

Tiles were still available at press time. Funds they will raise are needed to enhance the project whose construction begins this winter. Please add your efforts to ours by reaching friends or family who have special connection, affection or attachment to Coit Tower or Pioneer Park, Telegraph Hill or San Francisco. Let them know of this opportunity to have their names engraved on a tile that will become part of a beautifully restored Pioneer Park. Brochures and information are available by calling 398-5112. Stay tuned for the ground-breaking celebration later this year.

Rosemary Benda, CPA

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Glorious Greenery and Shapely Shrubs *394 Chestnut – Vicki and Jack Tomlinson*

In 1971 the Tomlinsons began the care and nurturing of the trees and plants around their new home and turned their corner at Chestnut and Stockton into a gift of greenery to the neighborhood. Four luxuriant Dutch elms, well cared for hedges, and cypress and Monterey pines frame the building. Colorful geraniums climb tree trunks, impatiens fill window boxes and podocarpus line the entrance. Vicki and Jack say they made a commitment to the corner when they moved in 25 years ago. How very well they have fulfilled it for all who pass by to enjoy.

Blooming Sidewalk and Flowering Facade *408-410 Francisco – Mrs. Marie LaRocca*

Just after the turn of the century the LaRocca family moved into the one-story house on Francisco. By the sixties, three generations later, the house had two stories and grandson Robert was a student at U. C. Berkeley. For his undergraduate project in landscape architecture Robert designed a sidewalk garden needing no water. He replaced plantings from the '20s with bougainvillea, geranium, Hollywood juniper and

purple plum. Thirty years later, except for the plum which was demolished by a tour bus, all are thriving and reaching well up to the second floor.

Filbert Street Steps, Part 2

Bountiful Gardens – Mike Durand, 273 Filbert Steps

A relative newcomer to the Filbert Steps, Mike has in a short time created a beautiful flower garden of begonia, impatiens, mums, agapantha, petunia and snapdragons. Baby tears carpet the area around the flowers and frame the interesting pre-WWII building.

Mark and Tonya Miller – 267-271 Filbert Steps

To create their colorful garden Mark had to remove extensive overgrown shrubbery. The special reward was the discovery of a wonderful rock wall which now provides a backdrop for begonia, fuchsia, impatiens, roses, agapantha and baby tears. An inviting seating area affords a fine view of the well-known and loved Grace Marchant Garden.

Summer's *Semaphore* didn't include the address of **Joan Levin's** terraced garden at **228 Filbert**



*Honoring the Heritage of the Hill
Preserving the Past; Serving the Present*



The Hill Dwellers honor the following shop owners of long standing
who maintain and heighten the character of North Beach
and the pleasure of living on Telegraph Hill

BIORDI ART IMPORTS

By Dawne Bernhardt

Step into Biordi's at 412 Columbus Avenue and you're immediately surrounded by the rich vibrant colors of handpainted Italian majolica pottery. Lovers of majolica which was developed in 14th-Century Italy come from all over the world to see it in this beautiful North Beach store built in 1922; note the Italian Renaissance style pediments above the second-story windows. It's the perfect setting for Biordi's which celebrated its 50th birthday last year.

Emilio Biordi immigrated to the United States as a young man. He settled in San Francisco after traveling extensively and became a salesman of imported foods. He retired in 1946. On a trip home to Italy, Emilio was convinced by his brother, a well known art critic and majolica collector, to import the classic pottery. Biordi Art Imports was born in 1946 and Emilio ran it for over thirty years. He retired again, but kept a watchful and loving eye on the business. He visited the store almost daily to prepare lunch for the employees until shortly before his death, aged 89, in 1993.

Gianfranco Savio became the owner of Biordi's in 1977 and began a dramatic upgrading. In 1982 the firm of Marquis Associates transformed the long fairly dark interior into three bright galleries. The entrance has a pitched roof like a basilica--a museum-quality vessel is displayed votive-like in a square cut uplighted transom window. The main gallery contains an abstract classically proportioned fireplace.

Shelves and walls are adorned with an amazing array of majolica shapes and designs. My favorite, the Blue Carnation, was inspired by the famous Imari Japanese style. I bought my first pieces in Faenza, lugged the heavy packages home, then discovered similar artist-signed pieces at Biordi's, a block and a half from my home.

Raffaello designs from artists in Deruta, Faenza and Florence include a dragon that represents a benevolent force that protects against adversaries. The original was by the Renaissance artist Raphael, commissioned by the Pope for the Logge Vaticane. The sitting deer in a Siena design is from an allegorical scene in the inlaid marble floor of the Siena Duomo. Another 14th-Century pattern from Orvieto is a whimsical rooster quite at home in the 20th-Century.

Gianfranco, born in Piedmonte and raised in Florence, travels yearly throughout Italy visiting artists in their studios, selecting the finest pieces and commissioning new interpretations of classic designs. A beautiful Biordi catalog, mailed to 70,000 customers this year, is a prize in itself. He has had many offers to franchise or open additional stores, but Gianfranco, who operates the store with his wife Carol, daughter Sonia, and a loyal enthusiastic staff says, "I want to keep this a family business."

What a pleasure to recognize Biordi's, a store of the finest quality, which is also helping to maintain the heritage of the Hill.

INTRODUCING THE STOP COMMITTEE

By June A. Osterberg

Exasperated residents of Telegraph Hill, North Beach and Russian Hill have formed a citizens group and named it STOP, which stands for "Snarled Traffic Obstructs Progress."

The new committee will carry on the fight to save the embattled North Beach Garage while opposing the City's plan to replace it with a costly new structure that would worsen traffic congestion in North Beach.

STOP Committee members said they banded together because the Parking and Traffic Commission ignored widespread community opposition to the project when they voted June 17 to barrel ahead with the \$10.5 million boondoggle. The STOP Committee intends to train a spotlight on the many serious and illegal deficiencies in the City's ill-conceived scheme, including:

The project does not comply with the California Environmental Act (CEQA). DPT is relying on a 9-year-old Negative Declaration that is not valid today because the plan is substantial-

ly changed from 1988.

The tear-down-and-build-new plan violates Proposition M which requires that projects not have a negative impact on neighborhood traffic and historic buildings. (The existing North Beach Garage dates from 1920.)

The Department of Parking and Traffic's own Demand Study could not demonstrate that a new garage is needed in North Beach, which already has 22 parking garages and lots, some of which are not even kept open on weekdays because of lack of business. The threatened North Beach Garage itself is not filled to capacity except for a few hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

The STOP Committee hopes to change the present administration's approach to parking problems from that of promoting increased use of personal autos in neighborhoods, to one of focusing problem-solving efforts on the City's established Transit First policy.

Anyone wishing to join the new committee can do so by writing to the STOP Committee, c/o Herb Kosovitz, 340 Chestnut Street, 94133.

Washington Square Bar & Grill.

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SNAPSHOTS

On assignment for *The Semaphore*, **Jerry Hurtado** will be taking his camera and notebook around the neighborhood.



Saturday is moving day! L/R Jim Hill, Kate and Tom Whelan, Devon Carroll and Adam Carroll.

Tom and Kate Whelan who lived at 566 Vallejo since 1991 are now the happy owners of an upper Montgomery condo which features an unobstructed view of the Bay. TRI Realtor Lou Silcox, a Telegraph Hill Dweller since 1975, closed the deal for them.

While pruning John and June Coyle's trees on upper Vallejo, Elliot Goliger of Rare Earth Landscapes was approached by Richard Weissman to trim and balance the trees at the Kearny/Vallejo minipark where the wind blows so hard the trees grow lopsided. Weissman said, "I saw these guys working and decided to fast-talk them into fixing the problem. It cost me \$20 but it was worth it."

Surprisingly often the recycle truck appears to miss blue bins on the curb. It's not by accident. There are specific items they will not collect, including plastic bags, paper mixed with bottles,

cardboard boxes, non-recyclable plastics, and items such as window glass and clothes hangers. If you have questions about what will be picked up, or how to sort it, contact SF Recycling at 330-CURB.

Projects of THD's Parking and Traffic Committee have been reported in several recent issues of *The Independent*—most recently, the consolidated white zone plan, updated in this issue's Parking and Traffic Committee report by Sheila Black.

Longtime Dweller Bob Ludtke, an habitue of the Caffe Trieste was seen at the Mill Valley Coffee Depot. Bob quipped, "Once in a while I like to have an out-of-neighborhood experience; just don't tell Iolanda." Bob recently retired from SF Unified where he taught Civics at Lowell High School.



THDers Bill and Joi Jung with their children Matthew and Monique at the Democratic League's annual July 7 picnic in Golden Gate Park.

Port-Pourri

Here is a selection of recent activities along the Waterfront monitored by Bob Tibbits

SAIL AWAY TO MONTEREY?

The Ports of San Francisco and Los Angeles are leading a campaign to amend the 111-year old U.S. Passenger Services Act. Enacted the same year the Balclultha was launched in Glasgow, this act restricts foreign-flagged vessels from carrying passengers between two U.S. port cities. It effectively precludes cruising from San Francisco to, say, Monterey or Portland or even Sacramento, because all the cruise ships currently plying the West Coast are registered in foreign nations. In June, Republican Senators Strom Thurman (South Carolina) and Frank Murkowski (Alaska) introduced legislation, Senate Bill 803, to eliminate that provision of the act. Hearings on the bill will begin in September.

American labor unions, which have no jurisdiction over foreign crews and dwindling American seagoing ranks, are fighting this amendment. There are only two remaining U.S. cruise ships afloat, both based in Hawaii, and no new buildings are likely to be ordered from expensive domestic shipyards. Others fear a proliferation of "cruises to nowhere", floating casinos that spend the night in waters beyond territorial limits and then sail back into the same U.S. port of embarkation. However, California law, reconfirmed as recently as 1992, prohibits casino ships from reentering the origination port or any other port in this state, even for U.S. flagged vessels. If the Senate passed this measure, which is by no means certain, similar legislation would still have to be introduced and passed by the House.

Veronica Sanchez, in charge of legislative affairs at our Port, believes there would be increased cruise ship traffic for San Francisco if this prohibition were to be lifted. California's two Senators, however, need encouragement from voters who support the amendment. Ms. Sanchez (274-0413) will be happy to furnish a sample letter to Dianne Feinstein and/or Barbara Boxer expressing your support for this amendment.

"UNDERWATER WORLD" WASH OUT

Chronicle Ventures may lament the day it went into the fishing business with the Bass Brothers at Pier 39. According to its affiliate, the S.F. Chronicle, tourist attendance at its partly-owned \$38 million acrylic fish theater is underwater in more ways than one. Ticket sales during its inaugural year have (big surprise!) not been on target. According to the newspaper, attendance is running at only 40% of traffic projections, or 3,500 rubber-necked tourists a day, which is only 30% of Underwater World's capacity. Consequently, requirements under Pier 39's Conditional Use Permit to provide contingent parking at Levi Plaza for overflow crowds and a subsidy payment to MUNI for additional bus service have been scratched by the Planning Commission.

In addition to reducing prices a mere 4% to \$12.95 for the one-hour tour, management plans to initiate new tie-in marketing programs aimed at San Franciscans, such as discount passes with tickets to the Giants games as an inducement to visit the 707,000 gallon fish bowl. Presently, it caters only to local school children who get free tickets under its vaunted "educational program" that was a sop to local

politicos who supported permitting of this tourist-friendly facility.

Fare-paying local patrons, on the other hand, have not been attracted by those in-your-face, eyesore "murals" of frolicking gray whales on both the pier facade and the parking structure across the Embarcadero. The state Bureau of Consumers Affairs might view these overreaching billboards as deceptive advertising akin to the misleading radio commercials for donating old cars to charity. After all, the largest sea creatures at Pier 39 are not gray whales, but the ubiquitous lumbering sea lions in the west harbor. However, management has announced plans for bigger sharks in Underwater World.

NEW BALL PARK LEASE WILL NOT BENEFIT PORT OPEN SPACE PRO- GRAM

In one of his last acts, departing former Port Executive Director Dennis Bouey engineered a Concept Agreement last December with S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission and Save San Francisco Bay Association. Under this landmark compact, the Port would be required to set aside 25% of "gross cash receipts" from all new development projects from China Basin to Fisherman's Wharf to be dedicated to improving public open space. However, the recently permitted "Pacific Bell Park" at Pier 46 was "categorically exempted", according to a Port official. And the \$1.2 million annual rent WILL NOT spawn \$300,000 a year toward the removal of rotting piers 34 and 36 to create Brannan Street Wharf, OR the removal of aging pier 33 and construction of a new 50,000 square foot pier structure between Piers 31 and 35, OR building a 500 foot wide

"Northeast Wharf" between Piers 23 and 27.

The pact may not become effective until formal amendments to the Special Area Plan and the San Francisco Bay Plan have been adopted by B.C.D.C. However, preparation of these documents has been stalled by the departure of a commission attorney. No further work on the amendments will be done until a replacement is hired in a month or two. Meanwhile, the Port is now negotiating a lease for a parking lot on Seawall Lot 337 across Mission Creek which is beyond the purview of the agreement. Ideally, the final amendments to be adopted by the commission will have a retroactive effective date that applies to the Ferry Building and any other blockbuster deals the Port may now entertain under the Waterfront Land Use Plan. To be continued!

WILLIE BROWN: "MASTER MARINER"

Recently a background piece on the Port written by THDer Sue Cauthen appeared in World Wide Shipping, an industry magazine. Cauthen reports that maritime "insiders" consider Willie Brown to be "the best friend the Port of San Francisco ever had in City Hall". One of the latest schemes being orchestrated by the Mayor, after his failed 1996 plan to create a regional port, is a \$35 million waste paper recycling center at the Pier 80 container terminal. By year-end, hopefully, scrap materials will begin to be barged across the Bay to the Port of Oakland for transshipment to the Orient. Meanwhile the Port will try to lure a major shipping line to load these outgoing containers on this side of the Bay. That may entail resuscitating the interior destinations via the same railroad that serves the Port of Oakland?

THE BEAR'S LAIR IS BARE

By June A. Osterberg

Perhaps you have noticed, as you have walked along Columbus Avenue, that the platform behind the pond in the lovely little triangle (across from the Washington Square Bar & Grill) is empty. Vacant. Unoccupied.

THE BEAR IS GONE.

The bear on-all-fours did not take a hike. It didn't go into the woods. It didn't go over the mountain. The beloved bear has been wantonly VANDALIZED.

Tom Shaini, the conscientious gardener of Washington Square, found the bear in the pond, severely injured--the paws destroyed, nose broken, an ear missing.

This contemptible trashing--by some vicious cretins--took place more than a year ago. The bear weighs 400-500 pounds, and presumably would have taken more than one scoundrel to tear it or kick it off its base. A crane was required to pluck the bear out of the pond and remove it to a safe place to await eventual restoration.

Debra Lehane, dedicated manager of the Civic Art Collection, is poised to give the go-ahead for reconstruction whenever the \$4-5,000 is allocated. Even in the best years she has only about \$10,000 to maintain 125 public sculptures. She promises that the bear will be returned, but cannot say when.

Hey! Any restaurateurs around The Square willing to place A Jar On The Bar--for REPAIR THE BEAR donations?

Let's bring the bear back where it belongs.

SEE THE WORLD... AT THE LIBRARY!

By Jensa Woo, Children's Librarian

The following special children's programs will be featured this autumn at the North Beach Library, 2000 Mason Street at Columbus Avenue.

"Brave Little Girls From Around the World" is the theme for Storyteller Megumi's tales on Thursday, September 25 at 3:45 PM. Suitable for ages 6 and older. This program is held in conjunction with the "Brave Little Girls" exhibition at the Main Library in Civic Center, featuring books and original illustrations celebrating heroines from diverse cultures and ethnic traditions.

Los Palomitos, a dynamic musical duo, will perform an English-Spanish program of folk, popular, and original children's songs from Latin America on Tuesday, October 7 at 3:45 PM. Suitable for ages 5 and older. This is part of San Francisco Public Library's citywide Latino-Hispanic Heritage Festival.

Come and join us!

In the mood for scary stories? Storyteller Belinda Sullivan shares scary tales, just in time for Halloween! It takes place Thursday, October 23 at 3:45PM. For ages 6 and older.

Singer Bonnie Lockhart returns to delight us with songs for the young and young-at-heart on Thursday, November 6 at 10:30 AM--for children of all ages.

Contact our staff at 274-0270 to find out more about these and additional programs coming up this fall.

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October
November

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LOCAL WRITERS

A short story started at a table in a North Beach coffee house, and a poem inspired by the Sansome Street Cliffs.

Carla

By Stephen Ward

It was thirty years now and they had just begun to look different to one another although they had not met a lot since those days. Neither said anything about it the whole afternoon. They had some years left until they would begin to comment on aches or pains or debilitations and no one was in a hurry for that.

The man was not looking for anything today, anything or anybody interesting or different that he could remember or write down because he regarded street fairs as a disruption of his routine and an invasion of his neighborhood. At one time he welcomed them because it brought other people in, but later he would realize that they were always the same people. People looking for bargains or a reason to get drunk in the afternoon or for a place to show off their babies or to find a new spouse.

The woman rarely went to them any more because she already had all the ideas she

needed for her work. Everything she designed came out of something she had worn and been complimented on. She was careful to study both the men and the women who were bold enough to say something. By judging who made the comments to see if they could afford whatever they liked, she was never left with fashion that didn't move and she was always successful.

He too judged people and that was probably the reason they had been so close in those days. But he had not been able to make anything of it. He still studied and observed and combined and recombined what he saw and still constructed stories that he submitted. But little ever came of his efforts and he was tired of supposing but he couldn't find anything else that he wanted to do so he kept on.

She was startled but not displeased when she understood who had whispered her name. She was not unused to being approached. Even though she thought of herself as plain she was always able to be a little remarkable. Besides, she knew that he would never move away so somewhere inside was the idea that it could be him. He was not looking for her

because he knew that she was busy with her family and no longer needed to hunt for bargains or gauge other crafts. He knew that things had settled down for her as they had not for him. But he felt that he was hiding it well so when he saw her he took the chance to say hello. And maybe she would sit with him for a while and he could go back to a better time by looking into her eyes until she made him stop.

She accepted his invitation to find a cafe. She already knew which one it would be because people who had known them then said that they always saw him there and that he hadn't changed all that much. And he almost hadn't once she got used to looking across the table at him and was certain that he had not noticed her shiver when she first turned her head to the sound of his voice and saw the old, old man inside just waiting to be born.

Reflections of the Hill

By T. E. Lantz

cliffs carve the wind
as they themselves curbed,
in silent, soft-hewn accord.

each suffers and sculpts its other,
like a babe that mirrors
its new-born mother...

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

At the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center (Tel-Hi). 660 Lombard Street.

English Tutors for Adults. Pair up one hour per week with an adult who is learning English, assisting with conversation and education. Hours are flexible and orientation and training will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, call Gentle Blythe at 421-6443 X 13.

Evening Tutors for Youth 9-14. Pair up with a young person (grades 4 through 8) for one semester (10 weeks) of One-On-One tutoring. Hours are flexible and orientation will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, call Michelle Justice at 421-6444 X 20.

Children's Center Assistants. Play with, read books to, or tutor children ages 2-1/2 to 8 years old. The Children's Center is open Monday-Friday 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. For more information or to volunteer, call Paula Minkus or Sayumi Hutchinson at 421-6444 X 16.

On-Call Senior Assistants. Provide on-call help for some of the neighborhood's elderly, with shopping, delivering a lunch, or running simple errands. Hours are flexible. For more information or to volunteer, call Ruby Gim at 421-6443 X 10.



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PUBLIC INTEREST LEGISLATION

Clip-and-Save Summaries of Open Meeting Laws and Ordinances. Proposition M. North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District. CEQA. Telegraph Hill Historic District. Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

Thanks to Nancy Shanahan and Aaron Peskin for putting these summaries together.

City agencies don't necessarily self-regulate. Appointees may not know prevailing law or that they are bound by it. Satisfaction under civil law can default to the public, free to sue for rights rather than lose them. It's better to empower our elected representatives and government officials than to take adversarial positions against them--they don't know how we feel unless we tell them. Communicate with them through letters, faxes, and e-mail, by telephoning their offices, and by attending public meetings where pros and cons of issues are aired. Much satisfaction can be gained by participating in government, none from simply complaining about it.

Open Meeting Laws and Ordinances

1. Sunshine Ordinance. This city ordinance (Chapter 67 of the City's Administrative Code) requires that all city governmental bodies reach their decisions "in full view of the public." This ordinance was enacted to assure

that deliberations by all city commissions, boards, and other decision-making bodies are conducted before the people and that city operations are open to the people's review. This means that commissioners and board members have an obligation to consider public input and testimony and explain their positions to the public before taking action. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force at 554-4851.

2. The Brown Act. The Ralph M. Brown Act (Section 54950 et seq. of the Government Code) is California's open meeting law -- the state's version of the city's Sunshine Ordinance -- to provide public access to meetings of local legislative bodies. Among other provisions, this law requires that (1) the time and place of all meetings must be noticed in advance; (2) an agenda must be prepared providing a description of all matters to be discussed or considered at the meeting; (3) information given to a majority of the members of the legislative body concerning any matter to be discussed at an open meeting must be equally available to the public; (4) the public must have the opportunity to comment before or during consideration of any item; and (5) a majority of members of any decision-making body may not

meet without prior public notice. Enforcement of the open meeting laws include criminal penalties, civil injunctive relief and the award of attorney fees. Actions taken in violation of the Brown Act may be declared null and void by a court.

Despite the existence of these laws, public decision-making bodies do not always abide by them. If you feel these laws have been violated, you may file a complaint with the city's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (call or write Georgia Dunn, Clerk of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 402, SF 94102; Tel. 415/554-4851; Fax 415/554-4849 for information and complaint forms).

Proposition M (Section 101.1 of the City Planning Code)

In 1986, San Francisco voters passed Proposition M which was widely viewed as a reaction to the excesses of ill-considered developments. Proposition M required that the following eight Priority Policies be included in the San Francisco's General Plan and be the basis upon which all inconsistencies in the General Plan be resolved:

1. *That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced;*
2. *That existing housing and neighborhood character be con-*

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served and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods;

3. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced;

4. That commuter traffic not impede Muni transit services or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking;

5. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced;

6. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and the loss of life in an earthquake;

7. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved; and

8. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development.

In their considerations of proposed development projects, city boards, commissions and other decision-making bodies must determine each project's consistency with these policies before taking an action to approve it.

Significant to THD's efforts to preserve the character and historic resources of our neighborhood, Policy 7 requires review by the city Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board of

any demolition, change of use or substantial alteration of buildings that are identified as architecturally or historically significant in one or more historic resource inventories. To be protected under Proposition M, buildings do not have to be designated City Landmarks or be located within historic districts.

North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District (Section 722.1 of the City Planning Code)

The North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District is a non-linear district centered on Columbus Avenue, located in the valley between Telegraph Hill and Nob Hill north of Broadway. According to the ordinance North Beach functions as a neighborhood-serving market place, citywide specialty shopping and dining district, and a tourist attraction, as well as an apartment and residential hotel zone. Traditionally, the district provided most convenience goods and services for residents of North Beach, Telegraph Hill and portions of Russian Hill. The balance between neighborhood-serving convenience stores and citywide specialty businesses shifted as neighborhood-serving businesses were replaced by restaurants and financial institutions. In addition, the relocation of business and professional offices from downtown to North Beach threatened the loss of upper-story residential units.

First enacted on March 13, 1987, the ordinance establishing the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District created special controls designed to "ensure the livability and attractiveness of North Beach" by limiting additional eating and drinking, entertainment, business and professional office uses. Specifically, the ordinance prohibits large fast food restaurants (with a gross floor area of 1,000 square feet or more) from locating in the district. This effectively limits national fast food chains or franchises. The ordinance also prohibits financial services from locating in that portion of the district south of Union Street and limits new financial services elsewhere. Most new commercial development is permitted only at the first two stories and existing residential units are protected by prohibitions on upper-story conversions and limitations on demolitions. New bars, full service restaurants, small self-service restaurants and tourist hotels are permitted within the district only upon the granting of a conditional use authorization.

Under the provisions of Section 303 of the City Planning Code, the Planning Commission may authorize a Conditional Use only after a finding that the proposed use (1) will provide a development which is necessary and desirable for and compatible with the neighborhood, (2) will not be detrimental to the health, safety, convenience or general

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will not adversely affect the General Plan (including the Proposition M policies).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.)

CEQA was enacted to protect the state's aesthetic, scenic and historic environmental qualities. CEQA requires all state and local agencies to analyze the potentially significant impacts of proposed projects on the environment prior to taking any discretionary action to approve or finance a project. This analysis begins with an Initial Study, leading to either a Negative Declaration (if the agency finds that project would have no significant impacts on the environ-

ment), or to an Environmental Impact Report, known as an EIR (if the agency finds that project could have significant impacts). While certain projects such as single family residences are generally considered "categorically exempt", CEQA protection does apply to any project that may result in damage to or impacts upon historic resources.

The basic purposes of CEQA are to:

- (1) Inform governmental decision-makers and the public of potentially, significant environmental effects of proposed activities;
- (2) Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage;
- (3) Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment

by requiring changes in the project through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when feasible; and

- (4) Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project if significant environmental affects are involved.

An **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** is a public document that analyzes the significant environmental effects of a proposed project, identifies alternatives and discloses ways to reduce or avoid environmental damage. CEQA requires more than merely preparing environmental documents. The EIR by itself does not control the way a project can be built or carried out. Rather, when an EIR shows that a project would cause

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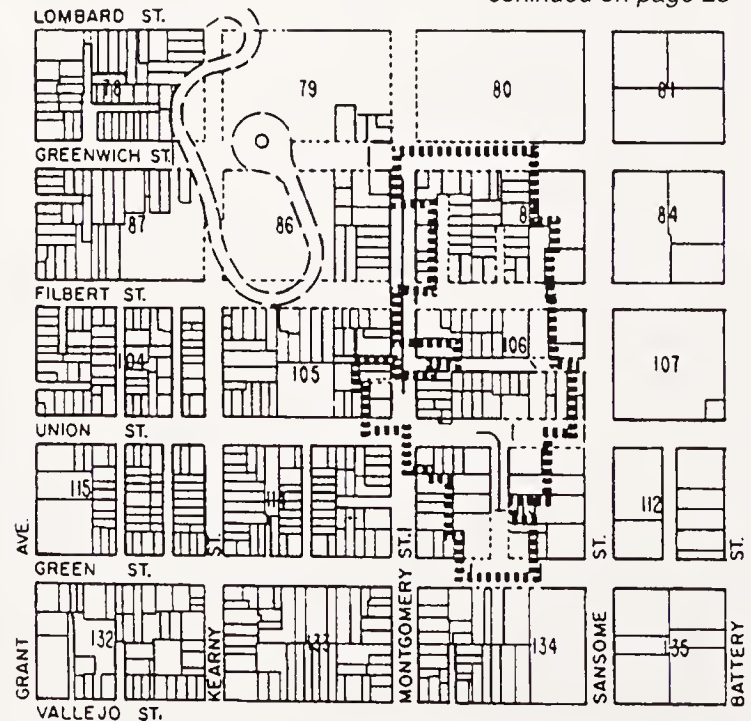
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Telegraph Hill Historic District

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out. Rather, when an EIR shows that a project would cause adverse changes to the environment, the governmental agency must respond by changing the project, imposing conditions on project approval, choosing an alternative to meet the same need, disapproving the project, or making a finding that the unavoidable environmental damage is acceptable. During the EIR process, the public must also be provided opportunities for review and comment.

CEQA specifically requires that if a project may cause the demolition, destruction, relocation or alteration of a historic resource, an EIR must be prepared -- a Negative Declaration is not allowed unless the project is changed in such a way as to avoid or mitigate such impacts. A 1997 court decision (*League for Protection of Oakland's Architectural and Historic Resources v. City of Oakland*, 52 Cal. App. 4th 896) makes clear that CEQA protects historic resources whether or not they are listed on State or National Registers or are designated city landmarks or districts.

While CEQA is a powerful tool, local officials charged with administering CEQA do not always abide by it. For example, determinations are made that significant projects do not require CEQA review or, in some cases, that a Negative Declaration suffices when an EIR is clearly required by law. Attempts to circumvent CEQA

can be successfully challenged by a community whose members actively participate in the public review of proposed projects and encourage city agencies to act in compliance with environmental laws. The city's Office of Environmental Review is responsible for working with city agencies in their environmental review process (contact Hillary E. Gitelman, Environmental Review Officer, 1660 Mission Street, SF 94103-2414; Tel. 415/558-6381; Fax 415/558-6426).

Telegraph Hill Historic District (Appendix G to Article 10 of the City Planning Code)

The Telegraph Hill Historic District was signed into law by the Board of Supervisors effective December 13, 1986. It incorporates about 100 properties together with the rock face cliffs, walkways and community gardens on the northeastern slope of Telegraph Hill within the area that was saved from the 1906 fire. The Historic District contains the City's largest group of pre-1870 structures. The buildings in the district are rated as "contributory" (those which date from the district's period of significance and retain their historic integrity), "contributory altered" (where the possibility exists for rehabilitation to the original condition), and "non-contributory" (outside the period of significance or too altered to be rehabilitated). Contributory Buildings are of the highest

importance in maintaining the character of the Historic District. Appropriate restoration of contributory altered buildings is strongly encouraged to enhance to district's character.

In order to protect the special character of this area, all exterior alterations and new construction within the District require review under the Certificate of Appropriateness procedures of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Alterations and new construction are required to be compatible with nearby "contributory buildings" and to conform with the ordinance's specific regulations governing style. Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness proposing new construction on the cliff areas require geological studies and special findings by the Planning Commission.

The review process is in two steps. First is review by the Architectural Review Committee, made up of four members of the Landmarks Board, which discusses with the applicant the appropriateness of proposed alterations and new construction and then makes recommendations for approval, disapproval or modification to the full board. The full board determines whether a Certificate of Appropriateness should be issued. For demolitions and other projects deemed major, Certificates of Appropriateness are generally reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.

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Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board Under Article 10 of the City Planning Code the Mayor appoints 9 members who must qualify as experts in relevant fields such as city planning, architectural history, historic preservation techniques, landscape architecture, among other disciplines.

The board investigates the relative value to San Francisco of its homes, commercial and public buildings, and districts. Nominations of structures and districts for landmark designation can be made by board members, property owners, and neighborhood organizations. Following investigation, the board may recommend Landmark and/or Historic District designations to the Planning Commission and to the Board of Supervisors. The board also reviews proposed alterations within Historic Districts and to landmarks, and conducts surveys of threatened historic buildings and districts.

No City Landmark has been destroyed. To do so, its owner must give public notice of intent one year in advance. During that year the City and other interested parties are free to propose alternate uses and

actions to preserve it.

Organized as an advisory board to the Planning Department, the board's investigations and recommendations enable City planners to make informed and responsible decisions. One member of the Planning Department's staff serves as the board's Secretary, who is primary liaison between the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

The former Secretary, Vincent Marsh, who served San Francisco well for many years as a nationally recognized expert on historic preservation, was removed from his job when Mayor Brown took office. Marsh's removal, and reduced standards of board expertise, give evidence of the Mayor's intent to limit the board's influence on historic preservation issues which are often perceived as conflicting with development proposals. This

tension creates the opportunity for the City's many preservation and neighborhood organizations to unite on worthy issues, mounting vigorous defenses against City Hall when no agency appears willing, or is able, to protect San Francisco's future interests.

The Landmarks Board meets monthly on first and third Wednesdays. Telephone 558-6320.

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That's Us! Pete Overmire (989-3945), a longtime THDer and former officer has set up this exclusive site for Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Access it to see the sensational look he has created, impressive to local and international browsers alike. Lend him photographs and graphics relevant to the Hill that he can scan in. Call or e-mail information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between Semaphores.



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PINNACLE ROBE

continued from page 8

To join, contact P & Z or any of the subcommittee's members, Joshua Koltun, Nan Roth, Andy Katz, Stuart Kaplan.

**Mr. Pizza Man (753
Columbus Avenue)**

On June 26 the Planning Commission denied a request for a Conditional Use Permit to significantly expand operations, largely due to opposition expressed by nearby residents, and in part on THD's concerns about late hours and double-parking. (See THD Board Resolutions, May 13, in this issue.) The business will continue as a small self-service operation in its present space.

**North Beach Garage,
763 Vallejo**

On June 17 the Parking & Traffic Commission approved another resolution to construct a new garage, agreeing with THD's requests to confine the building to 40-feet, to permit neighborhood consultation on building design, and not to demolish the existing building until all permits and approvals

are obtained for its replacement. Residents of North Beach, Russian Hill and Telegraph Hill who wish DPT to reconsider the plan to replace the garage have formed the group, S.T.O.P. An article introducing S.T.O.P., and contact information, is in this issue.

**I-Hotel/Colombo Building
Demolition**

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board sent a letter to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) taking issue with the manner in which HUD is failing to fulfil its federally mandated historic preservation review process.

**Street Trees at Vallejo Street
and Grant Avenue**

Illegal pruning decimated two healthy ficus trees. In response to many calls, P & Z arrived in time to stop work on three adjacent trees and met the people responsible. They are leasing the rectory of St. Francis of Assisi Church and have substantially remodeled its interior for commercial use as a Bed &

Breakfast. A visit to the Planning Department revealed they have failed to obtain a Conditional Use Permit to operate a hotel in the North Beach Commercial District.

10 Reno Place

The Committee is reviewing drawings for a proposed remodel and 4th story addition.

More Works in Progress...

Discussions continue on the long-pending proposal for a lot split and development on **1171 Sansome** which backs up to lower Calhoun. Consideration of an effort to protect the Sansome Street Cliffs will be the subject of future meetings.

The Committee heard a presentation by ARC San Francisco (formerly known as the Association for Retarded Citizens) regarding a proposed housing development on **Bay Street between Powell and Mason**.

Committee members discussed and recommended that THD sponsor a workshop/forum on the Port's new **Waterfront Plan**.

OF COUNSEL TO
SPIEGEL LIAO & KAGAY

BARTHOLOMEW LEE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

88 KEARNY ST., SUITE 1310
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108-5530

TELEPHONE
(415) 956-5959
FACSIMILE
(415) 362-1431

Mail Delivery Problems?

Several member have voiced concerns about deteriorating mail service. Gerry Crowley needs specifics from other members.

Call her at 781-4201.

FLO ALLEN (1913-1997)

Her death on June 1 caused many to call and write about this remarkable woman who was a longtime THD member because "In whatever neighborhood I've lived," she said, "I always wanted to be a part of it and I felt you were doing a great job." The feeling was mutual. At the memorial celebration for Florence Wysinger Allen friends reminisced about San Francisco's legendary artist's model who posed for virtually every prominent West Coast painter of the past 50 years--Diego Rivera, Mark Rothko, Elmer Bischoff, Joan Brown, Nathan Oliveira, Wayne Thiebaud among many others. Last October the San Francisco Art Institute held a tribute to her, attended by hundreds of alumni, collectors and San Francisco's art world luminaries.

The following excerpts are from an interview John D. Dolan conducted with Flo in her North Beach apartment, reported in the July 1983 Semaphore.

In 1982 the Upper Grant Street Fair was dedicated to her. In 1981 she received a commendation from the Board of Supervisors. In 1978 she coordinated a benefit for A.C.T. at Macy's and a show at I. Magnin for Art Week. She has been on the Board of Directors for NAACP, the Urban League, and the Council for Civic Unity. In the 1960s she picketed Yellow Cab for its hiring policies. She showed me photographs of herself with, for instance, Leotyne Price, Jean Varda, Harry Belafonte, Paul Newman and Earl "Fatha" Hines. And Harry Bridges. Harry Bridges? In the 1940s Flo was one of the only two women business agents for the CIO.

When I admired one of the many clay pots she collected she gave it to me. In response to my objection she said, "It comes back to us in ways we don't know about."

People who knew Flo believe that John used apt words to describe her in concluding his report: "Principled, good-humored, beautiful, energetic, witty--and involved and generous."

THD Committees Need You...

You can make a difference!
Join one of THD's committees,
meet and work with your fel-
low Hill Dwellers to improve
life on the Hill.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Crime Prevention. Co-chairs
Richard Johnson, 445-9902.
Nancy Lenvin, 397-6424.
Organizes S.A.F.E. neighbor-
hood watch groups and works
with Police Department on
local crime problems.
Participates in Police
Community Relations.

H.A.L.O. Art Chang, 331-
9595 x 733. Focuses on the
History, Art, Landmarks and
Organizations that tell, show,
demonstrate and create the
story of our neighborhood.

N.I.C.E. Dawne Bernhardt,
982-3314. Creates neighbor-
hood projects that Improve,
Conserve, Enhance the Hill.
Work parties plant, clean,
beautify. N.I.C.E. Awards
recognize "People Who Make
A Difference."

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-
1187. Energizes members to
take emergency disaster
response training program
sponsored by the City.

Neighborhood Liaison. Sue

Cauthen, 391-0737.
Represents THD at Coalition
for SF Neighborhoods, a city-
wide organization that meets
monthly to interact with other
neighborhoods to discuss com-
mon problems.

Parking and Traffic. Sheila
Black, 398-7090. Represents
THD before City agencies on
traffic control, curb markings
and Muni service, cooperating
with other neighborhood
groups.

**Pioneer Park Improvement
Project.** Howard Wong, 982-
5055. Its goal is to increase
useability of the Park's open
space and to improve accessi-
bility and safety through plan-
ning, work parties and
fundraising.

Planning and Zoning. Co-
chairs Aaron Peskin 986-7014
and Nancy Shanahan 986-
7070. Monitors and reviews
proposed development projects
for consistency with applicable
city ordinances. Works with
Planning Department staff and
represents THD before the
Landmarks Board, Planning
Commission, Zoning
Administrator and other city
bodies to protect historic
resources and maintain neigh-
borhood character. Provides
members with opportunities to

learn more about and partici-
pate in planning and zoning
issues.

Waterfront. Bob Tibbits, 986-
7227. Monitors new develop-
ment projects for commercial
and recreational activities as
they are processed by the Port
Commission, Planning
Department and SF Bay
Conservation and Development
Commission.

Administration. Clyde
Steiner, 398-8093. Works with
President to confirm organiza-
tion's compliance with THD
bylaws.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget. Paul Switzer, 788-
8667. As prescribed in bylaws
for Treasurer.

Membership. June Fraps,
392-1187. As prescribed in
bylaws for Financial Secretary.

Program. Co-chairs Billie
Atlas, 433-1634; Terry
Bertrand, 981-3514. Arranges
social events, including quar-
terly membership meetings and
get-acquainted social functions.

Semaphore. Patricia Cady,
397-2175. The editor and staff
produce a quarterly magazine
for THD members.

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Susan Spano, New York Times

"YOU CAN COUNT ON THE FRIENDLY, BILINGUAL,
CITY SAVVY STAFF AT THE SAN REMO HOTEL."

Northern California Best Places - 1995-96

"SAN REMO IS A LITTLE CHARMER."

The Women's Travel Guide

"THE SAN REMO HOTEL IS A GREAT PLACE FOR
SINGLE TRAVELERS TO FEEL AT HOME."

Mary Forgione, LA Daily News

"SAN REMO HOTEL IS TIDY AND ENDEARING."

San Francisco's Top 10 Hotels, LA Times

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THD CALENDAR

- 1st Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties. *October 4, November 1, December 6.* Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 391-9919.
- *September 17:* THD Cocktail Party.
- *October 26, 2-4 PM* at Enrico's. Authors Book Signing party.
- *November 17:* General Membership Meeting at Enrico's.
- *December 14:* Holiday Party at Julius' Castle.

Monthly Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning: Last Wednesdays. Call for time and location 986-7070.

Parking & Traffic: 2nd Saturdays at 11 AM at Little City Restaurant, Union and Powell Streets.

N.I.C.E.: 1st Tuesdays. Call for time/location 982-3314.

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods meets 3rd Tuesdays. 391-0737.

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